



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

---

*Office of Railroad, Pipeline &  
Hazardous Materials Investigations*

# Transit Operations

Oversight

# WMATA

- Title 49 CFR Part 659 is the authority for the Federal Transit Administration to require each state to oversee the safety and security of rail fixed guide-way systems through a designated oversight agency.

# Federal Requirement

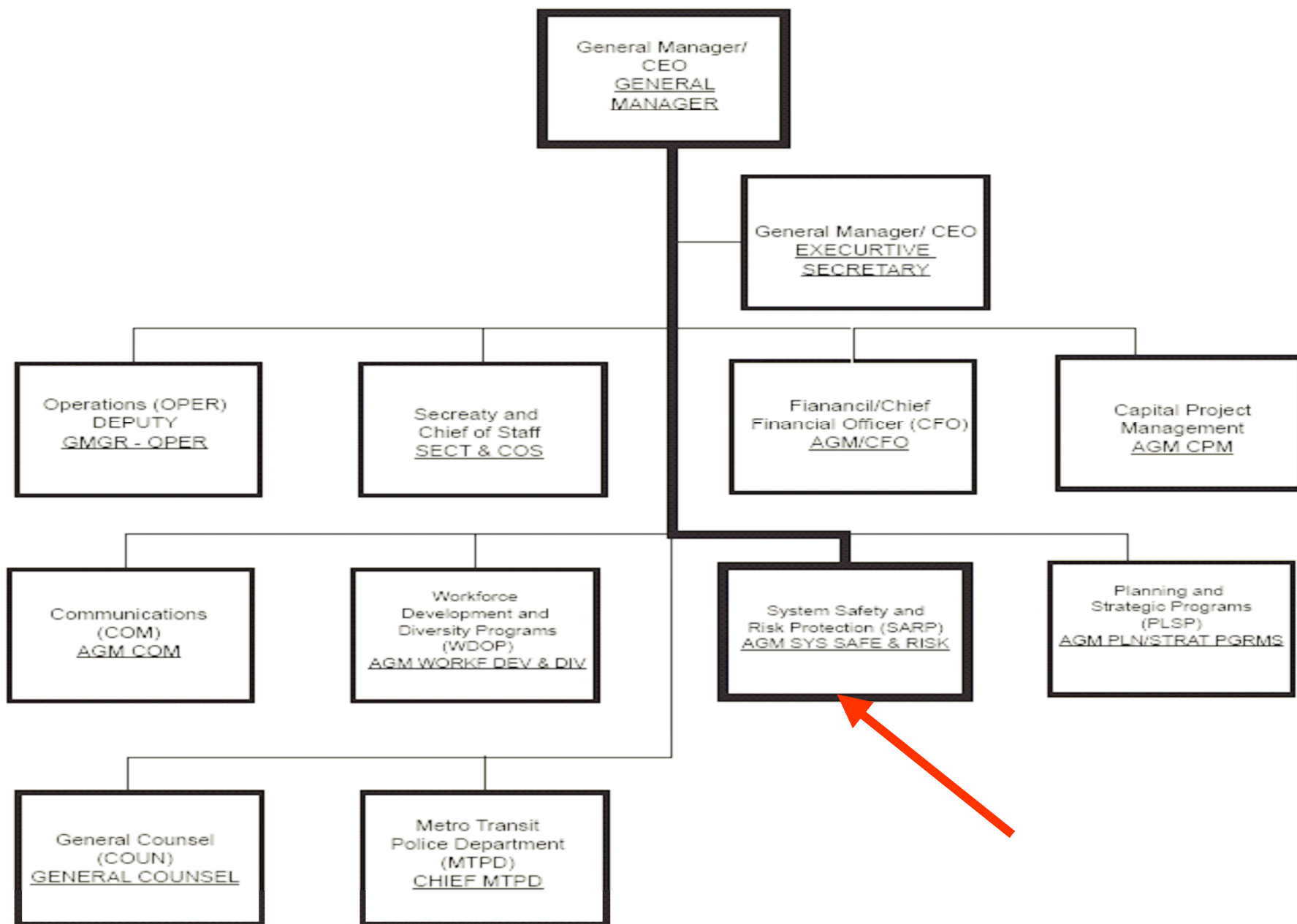
- Title 49 CFR 659.19 (c)
- An organization chart:
  - A description of how the safety function is integrated into the rest of the rail transit organization; and
  - clear identification of the lines of authority used by the rail transit agency to manage safety issues.

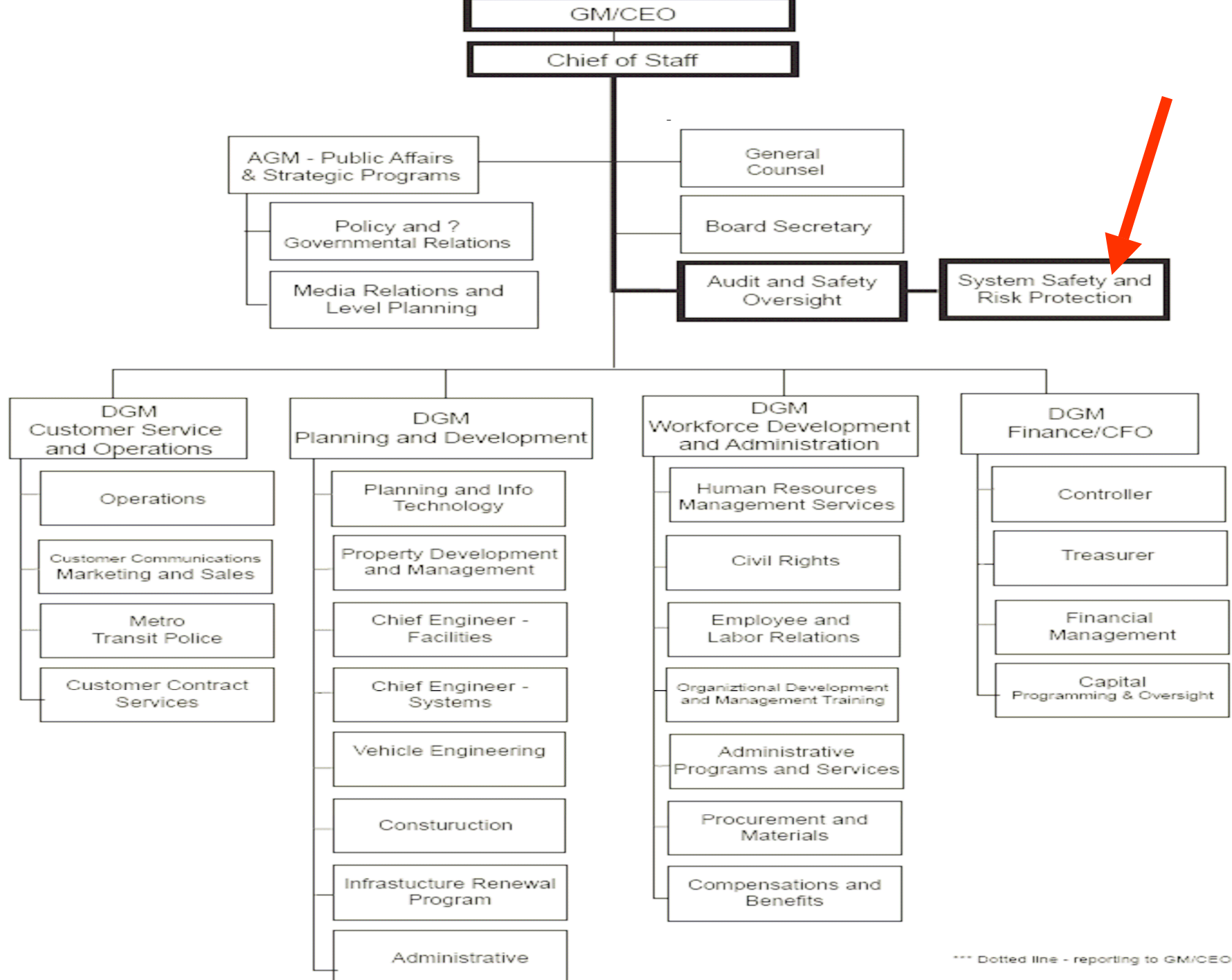
# WMATA

- January 6, 1996, collision at Shady Grove station.
- Information isolation within WMATA was identified by Safety Board investigators in the Shady Grove accident investigation.
- A WMATA Safety Review Committee recommended that its safety department report directly to the General Manager.
- WMATA adopted and implemented the organization change.

# WMATA

- The management organizational structure was not a factor in the November 3, 2004, accident at Woodley Park.
- WMATA's postaccident reorganization after the November 3, 2004, accident.





\*\*\* Dotted line - reporting to GM/CEO

# WMATA

- Postaccident reorganization reverts back to same status of preaccident Shady Grove.

# State Oversight Concern

- Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC) expressed concern to WMATA about the postaccident reorganization of the WMATA management structure; eliciting a response from WMATA's General Manager.
- TOC provided the Safety Board with a copy of the letter.

# WMATA

- The WMATA responded to the TOC that change would provide for:
  - *Swift resolution of issues and recommendations identified by WMATA Safety and Audit organizations and provide them with a mandate to ensure compliance in the event that necessary corrective actions are not being taken by other parts of WMATA in a prompt fashion.*



**NTSB**